

DECISION RECORD

Reference: Environmental Assessment (EA) for Grazing Authorization, NM-066-99-126

Decision: It is my decision to authorize the issuance of a ten year grazing lease on the White Lakes - West allotment for the Bureau of Land Management grazing allotment #65035. The lease will authorize 14 AU's (168 AUM's active at 100% public land and 24 AUM's in suspension) from March 1 to the end of February each year.

Any additional mitigation measures identified in the environmental assessment impacts sections of the referenced EA have been formulated into stipulations, terms and conditions. Any comments made to this proposed action and alternative were considered and any necessary changes have been incorporated into the environmental assessment.

The fundamentals of rangeland health are set forth in 43 CFR 4180.1 and pertain to watershed functions, ecological processes, water quality and habitat for threatened and endangered species and other special status species. Based on the available data and professional judgement, the evaluation by this environmental assessment indicates that the conditions identified in the fundamentals of rangeland health exist on the allotment.

If you wish to protest this proposed decision in accordance with 43 CFR 4160.2, you are allowed 15 days to do so in person or in writing to the authorized officer, after the receipt of this decision. Please be specific in your points of protest. In the absence of a protest, this proposed decision will become the final decision of the authorized officer without further notice, in accordance with 43 CFR 4160.3. A period of 30 days following receipt of the final decision, or 30 days after the date the proposed decision becomes final, is provided for filing an appeal and petition for the stay of the decision, for the purposes of a hearing before an Administrative Law Judge (43 CFR 4.470.).

The appeal shall be filed with the office of the Field Office Manager, 2909 West Second, Roswell, NM, 88201, and must state clearly and concisely your specific points.

Signed by T. R. Kreager
Assistant Field Manager

8/25/99
Date

**ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT
for
GRAZING AUTHORIZATION**

ALLOTMENT 65035 SECTION 15

EA-NM-060-99-126

MAY, 1999

**U.S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management
Roswell Field Office
Roswell, New Mexico**

Environmental Assessment for Grazing Allotment 65035

I. Background

A. Introduction

When authorizing livestock grazing on public range, the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) has historically relied on a land use plan and environmental impact statement to comply with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). A recent decision by the Interior Board of Land Appeals, however, affirmed that the BLM must conduct a site-specific NEPA analysis before issuing a permit or lease to authorize livestock grazing. This environmental assessment fulfills the NEPA requirement by providing the necessary site-specific analysis of the effects of issuing a new grazing lease on Allotment 65035.

The scope of this environmental assessment is limited to the effects of issuing a new grazing lease on Allotment 65035. Over time, the need could arise for subsequent management activities which relate to grazing authorization. These activities could include vegetation treatments (e.g., prescribed fires, herbicide projects), range improvement projects (e.g., fences, water developments), and others. Future management actions related to livestock grazing would be addressed in project-specific NEPA documents as they are proposed.

B. Purpose and Need for the Proposed Action

The purpose of issuing a new grazing lease would be to authorize livestock grazing on public range on Allotment 65035. The lease would be needed to specify the types and levels of use authorized, and the terms and conditions of the authorization pursuant to 43 CFR 4130.3, 4130.3-1, and 4130.3-2.

C. Conformance with Land Use Planning

Upon review of the Roswell Resource Management Plan/Environmental Impact Statement (Bureau of Land Management 1997), the proposed action was found to conform with the Record of Decision as required by 43 CFR 1610.5-5.

D. Relationships to Statutes, Regulations, or Other Plans

The proposed action and alternatives are consistent with the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (43 U.S.C. 1700 et seq.); the Taylor Grazing Act of 1934 (43 U.S.C. 315 et seq.), as amended; the Clean Water Act (33 U.S.C. 1251 et seq.), as amended; the Endangered Species Act (16 U.S.C. 1535 et seq.) as amended; the Public Rangelands Improvement Act of 1978 (43 U.S.C. 1901 et seq.); Executive Order 11988, Floodplain Management; and Executive Order 11990, Protection of Wetlands.

II. Proposed Action and Alternatives

A. Proposed Action: (Existing Situation)

To authorize the grazing lease on the White Lakes - West, allotment # 65035 for 14 AU's (168 AUMs active at 100% public land and 24 AUMs in suspension). Specifically, to authorize a grazing lease for 14 cows from March 1 to the last day of February of each year at 100% public land, while continuing current livestock management practices.

B. No Permit/Lease authorization alternative:

This alternative, if selected, would be to not issue a new grazing lease for the White Lakes - West, allotment #65035. No grazing would be authorized on federal land under this alternative. The No Grazing alternative was considered, but not chosen in the Rangeland Reform Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) Record of Decision (ROD) (p. 28). The elimination of grazing in the Roswell Field Office Area was considered but eliminated by the Roswell RMP/ROD (pp. ROD-2).

III. Affected Environment

General Setting

Allotment #65035 is in Chaves County, approximately 22 miles Northeast of Roswell. This allotment consists of approximately 960 acres of federal land, 640 acres of State Land, and 8000 acres of private land (see map). Currently this allotment is categorized as a "C" or custodial allotment. In general, the area of the allotment 65035 predominately consists of mesquite grasslands with interspersions of sandy mesquite hummocks and shinnery oak sandhills. The public land is characterized as a shinnery oak dune plant community. Annual precipitation for this region averages 12 -13 inches.

The following resources or values are not present or would not be affected by the authorization of livestock grazing on Allotment #65035; Prime/Unique Farmland, Cultural Resources, Native American Religious Concerns, Wild and Scenic Rivers, Hazardous Wastes, water quality, riparian/wetlands, floodplains, Areas of Critical Environmental Concern, and Minority/low Income populations.

Cultural inventory surveys would continue to be required for federal actions involving surface disturbing activities except where criteria to exempt surveys are met. Eligible and potential eligible sites would continue to be protected from damage or archaeologically treated to mitigate damage.

The impact of the proposed action and alternatives to minority or low-income populations or communities has been considered and no significant impact is

anticipated.

A. Affected Resources

1. Soils: The primary soil units on this ranch are the Faskin association, the Faskin-Malstrom association, the Roswell-Jalmar association, Roswell association, Tucumcari association, Chispa-Malstrom association, Ratliff-Redona association, Jalmar-Roswell-Pyote association and Sharvana association.

Faskin :

The Faskin soil is deep and well drained. Permeability of this soil is moderate, available water capacity is high, runoff is medium, water erosion is moderate, while the hazard of soil blowing is very high.

Faskin-Malstrom :

Soils are 50% Faskin loamy fine sand and 40% Malstrom loamy fine sand. The Faskin soil is deep and well drained, permeability is moderate, water capacity is high, runoff is medium, water erosion is moderate, while the hazard of soil blowing is very high. The Malsrom soil is deep and well drained, permeability is moderately rapid, water capacity is high, runoff is medium, water erosion is moderate, while the hazard of soil blowing is very high.

Tucumcari :

The Tucumcari clay loam soil is deep and well drained in large depressional areas and basins. Permeability is moderately slow, water capacity is high, runoff is medium, water erosion is moderate, while the hazard of soil blowing is high.

Roswell - Jalmar

Soils are 60% Roswell fine sand and 35% Jalmar fine sand. The Roswell soil is on hummocky sand dunes and the Jalmar soil is in depressional areas. Permeability of the Roswell soil is rapid, water capacity is low, runoff is slow, while the soil blowing hazard is very high. Permeability of the Jalmar soil is moderate, water capacity is moderate, runoff is slow, while the soil blowing hazard is very high.

Roswell

This is a deep, excessively drained soil on high terraces. Permeability is rapid, water capacity is low, runoff is slow, water erosion is slight, while the soil blowing hazard is very high.

Ratliff-Redona :

Soils are 45% Ratliff fine sandy loam and 35% Redona fine sandy loam. The Ratliff soil is deep and well drained. Permeability is moderate, water capacity is high, runoff is slow, water erosion is slight, while the soil blowing hazard is high. The Redona soil is deep and well drained. Permeability is moderate, water capacity is very high, runoff is slow, while the soil blowing hazard is high.

Jalmar-Roswell-Pyote :

Soils are 50% Jalmar fine sand, 20% Roswell fine sand, and 20% Pyote fine sand. The Jalmar soil is deep and well drained, Permeability is moderate, water capacity is moderate, runoff is slow, water erosion is slight, while the soil blowing hazard is very high. Roswell soil is deep and excessively drained. Permeability is rapid, water capacity is low, runoff is slow, water erosion is slight, soil blowing hazard is very high.

Pyote soil is deep and well drained. Permeability is moderately rapid, water capacity is moderate, runoff is slow, water erosion is slight, while soil blowing hazard is very high.

Sharvana :

This is a shallow, well drained soil on high terraces. Permeability is moderate, water capacity is very low, runoff is medium, water erosion is moderate, while soil blowing hazard is high.

2. Vegetation:

Vegetative monitoring studies were established in key areas on this allotment in 1980. Data collected at these study locations include plant production, ground cover, plant composition and key forage plant utilization data. Ecological (range) condition ratings were derived from the production study data. From 1980 - 1994 production data was collected 7 years, ground cover and plant composition data 4 years. Allotment evaluations were done in 1980, 1985, 1990 and 1995. Vegetative data presented in this environmental assessment are derived from the monitoring studies. Study data summaries are presented in tables and as attachments to this document.

*******REWORK IN PROGRESS*******

The ecological (range) sites on the public lands within the allotment are varied. They include Deep Sand CP-2, Clayey CP-2, and Sandy Loam CP-2. Key vegetation varies throughout the allotment and is dependent on the ecological site. The Desired Plant Communities (DPC) within the allotment are Shinnery Oak Dune (SOD), Grassland (GR) and the Drainages, Draws and Canyons (DDC).

The deep sand community is a unique ecological area dominated by tall and mid-grasses. In many areas, the shinnery oak community has shifted from a dominant sand bluestem/little bluestem/hairy grama grassland with varying amounts of shinnery oak, sand sage and yucca to a community dominated by sand dropseed, red and purple three-awn and hairy grama, with increasing annual forbs, shinnery oak, mesquite, sand sage and yucca.

The Desired Plant Community (DPC) as outlined in the Roswell RMP/EIS, established broad resource objectives for each of the community types. Allotment specific DPC's were left to be developed at the individual activity plan level. A comparison of these resource objectives to the long term monitoring for this allotment is shown at Attachment 1.

*****REWORK IN PROGRESS***CONSIDER PUTTING IN A TABLE**

While the RMP established the broad resource objectives for the various community types, it also provided that these objectives should be consistent with the capabilities of the particular ecological site. As was stated previously, the primary ecological sites on this allotment are Deep Sand CP-2 and Sand Hills CP-2. Ecological site descriptions for ground cover on these sites allow for 0-35% bare ground, 0-30% litter, 0% rock, 0-25% grass and forbs and 0-10% shrub and trees.

The grass component is dominated by bluestems, threeawns, dropseeds, black and hairy grama and a lesser amount of sand paspalum and fall witchgrass; the shrub component is dominated by shinnery oak, sand sage, yucca and some mesquite; the forb component is comprised of a variety of both annual and perennial species.

The current monitoring data indicates that elements of ground cover objectives (bare ground and grass & forbs) are not being met presently. The resource objectives for vegetative composition are being met with the exception of the forb component. The forb component may not be met due to the study methodology used by the RFO. Only perennial forbs are tallied on the pace point transects; annual forbs are classified as litter. Attachment 2 provides a summary of monitoring data, broken out by study methodology, for each study on the allotment. The data includes species data.

Total vegetative production by year is summarized in the table below. Attachment 2 shows average production composition by vegetative class for each pasture of the allotment. Current vegetative data reflects that ecological (range) condition is at a high fair/low good rating. Range trend is static. Forage utilization has averaged below 45% on the long term.

**Production BY Study Year
(lbs/Ac)**

Pasture/Community	1980	1981	1982	1983	1984	1985	1989	1994	Avg
Middle #1/SOD	376	1133	516		317	781	599	462	598
Weaning #2/DDC	350	706	372		173	945	519	260	475

Presler #3/DDC	342	783	658		171	421	492	341	458
E. Presler #4/SOD		434	1296	602		438	874	1136	584

Chumley #5/GR	230	848	371		239	605	386	773	493	West
#6/GR	506	1071	627		257	722	543	592	617	
N. Antelope #7/SOD		483	1234			440	731	538	508	656
S. Antelope #8	593	1030	806		637	888	1358	544	837	
Mescalero/SOD	422	704	595	446	735		568	782	607	
White Lakes/SOD	335	985	814	425	772		417	796	649	
Big Horn Grama/GR		240	904	478	245	774		581	281	500
Big Horn Sand/SOD		369	809	584	320	983		464	557	584
Apache	349	1123	726	216	760		470	355	571	
65027-School/SOD		265	636	854		227	555			507
Annual Average	378	947	616	330	495	725	621	526	580	

Bluestem species and shinnery oak are important components of prairie chicken habitat and provide benefits to it's life cycle. The table below reflects this component in the present vegetative resource.

Average percent of Bluestem and Shinnery Oak Composition (Based on Long Term Monitoring Studies)

Pasture	Composition - %			Ground Cover - %			Production - %			
	ANHA *	ANSC2	QUHA3		ANHA *	ANSC2	QUHA3			
Middle #1/SOD	0	0	8.66	0	0	2.17	0	0	13.07	
Weaning #2/DDC										
Presler #3/DDC										
E. Presler #4/SOD		3.68	6.66	24.46		1.11	3.83	7.42	3.60	20.22
34.15										
Chumley #5/GR										
West #6/GR	0	0	13.55	0	0	3.50	0	2.42	24.78	
N. Antelope #7/SOD		1.17	3.78	23.78		0.33	1.68	7.66	2.57	6.82
37.38										
S. Antelope #8/SOD		18.50		13.25		28.25		2.50	6.83	7.33
10.30	20.93	40.96								
Mescalero/SOD	5.76	7.87	22.17		1.75	3.62	4.07	2.02	16.97	
34.36										
White Lakes/SOD	1.00	1.33	25.85		1.00	0	6.72	16.55		2.36
40.06										
Big Horn Grama/GR										
Big Horn Sand/SOD		6.01	2.07	26.27		2.51	1.32	5.80	7.07	7.26
38.42										
Apache		4.31				1.99		9.12		

3. Wildlife:

.Raptors that are frequently associated with the vegetation types on this allotment are the red-tailed hawk, swainson's hawk, ferruginous hawk, roughlegged hawk, common nighthawk, and the american kestrel.

Game bird species in this areas include the lesser prairie chicken, scaled and bob white quail, and the mourning dove.

Other bird species that are usually observed are the turkey vulture, roadrunner, chihuahuan raven, great-homed owl, burrowing owl, northern flicker, loggerhead shrike, western meadowlark, western kingbird, pyrrhuloxia, homed lark, and other passerine birds.

At least 33 species of mammals occur on or utilize this allotment. The diversity of small mammals provide for an excellent prey base for camivores such as the coyote, gray fox, bobcat, raccoon, badger, hooded skunk and striped skunk.

Mammals that provide a prey base include the black-tailed jack rabbit, desert cottontail, spotted ground squirrel, pocket mice, deer mouse, kangaroo rats, northern grasshopper mouse, harvest mice, and the white throated woodrat.

Two big game species that occur the allotment are pronghorn antelope and mule deer.

Reptiles and amphibians that inhabit the area are the dune sagebrush lizard, southern prairie lizard, lesser earless lizard, side-blotched lizard, longnose leopard lizard, sixlined racerunner, tree lizard, skinks, western diamond back, western rattlesnake, coachwhip, spadefoot toads, western box turtle, and the yellow mud turtle.

4. Threatened/Endangered Species

Federal threatened, endangered and candidate species as well as state-listed threatened or endangered species potentially occurring within the proposed project

area will be analyzed in this document.

There are no known Federal threatened and endangered species or critical habitat within the allotment.

However, there are several Federal Candidate and State listed species that occupy or utilize the area. These include the swift fox, mountain plover, lesser prairie chicken, sand dune lizard and the black-tailed prairie dog. For a detailed description of the range, habitats, and potential threats to the swift fox and the mountain plover, refer to the Biological Opinion (AP11-38) in the RMP.

Special Status Species:

Sand Dune Lizard

The State Threatened sand dune lizard only occurs in the southeastern corner of New Mexico and the western region of Texas. Within that range its habitat is restricted to active sand dunes and their peripheries (Degenhardt and Jones 1972). Shinnery oak is the dominate plant species that surrounds the top edge of the active sand dune, with a small composition of grasses inside the blowout area.

During 1991 a study was begun to examine the effects of the removal of shinnery oak on lizard habitat. Through five years of research it was demonstrated that there were 70%-94% fewer lizards in treated pastures as compared to non-treated pastures. As a result, the use of herbicides within suitable sand dune lizard habitat (blowouts) will be avoided.

Due to the absence of shinnery oak/Dune blowouts, the majority of the allotment contains very little sand dune lizard habitat. There are areas of shinnery oak, but no blowout complexes exist.

Lesser Prairie Chicken

Several years ago a petition was filed with the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) to list the prairie chicken as threatened. On June 1, 1998 the FWS announced a finding for the petition. After review of all available scientific and commercial information, the Service finds that listing this species is warranted but precluded by other higher priority actions to amend the Lists of Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants. The lesser prairie chicken is added to the Service's candidate species list.

In southeastern New Mexico, lesser prairie chickens exist in the shrub-dominated High Plains Bluestem Subtype by using mixed stands of tall grass and shinnery oak.

Lesser prairie chickens rely upon a variety of habitat types within the shinnery oak

tall grass community. Seasonal habitat requirements vary from season to season and are often overlapping. This specific allotment contains very little nesting habitat since the dominating soils do not support the quantity of bluestems required for nesting; but may provide booming areas (leks), brood habitat and some foraging habitat.

As with most wildlife species, especially upland game birds, precipitation plays a large role in population fluctuations and habitat conditions. Precipitation patterns have fluctuated drastically for the last twenty years. During the middle eighties precipitation was above normal and chicken populations responded very well. Except for two years, precipitation has been well below normal during the 1990's.

Population Monitoring Data

The Roswell Field Office has actively monitored prairie chicken booming grounds, population trends and habitat since the early seventies. Historically in New Mexico, the LPC occupied most of the eastern plains. However, numbers and occupied range of the species are much reduced since pre-settlement times; apparently in response to prolonged heavy grazing and brush control in combination with the great droughts of the 1930's and 1950's. It has been reported that currently the LPC occupies approximately one half their original range in New Mexico.

Since the early 1970's LPC populations have fluctuated up and down with the highest period occurring during the middle 1980's. No verified booming grounds have been documented on this specific allotment.

5. Livestock Management:

The allotment is grazed seasonally by yearlings with some rest during the growing season. The allotment consists of one pasture. The allotment is watered by pipeline systems supplied by wells and by dirt tanks. As was stated earlier the BLM does not normally set the total livestock numbers for a Section 15 Lease. Actual numbers of livestock on the allotment will vary depending on resource and economic conditions as determined by the operator.

6. Visual Resources:

The allotment is located in a Class IV Visual Management Area. The Class IV rating means that contrasts may attract attention and be a dominant feature in the landscape in terms of scale. However, the changes should repeat the basic elements of the landscape.

7. Air Quality:

The allotment is in a Class II area for the Prevention of Significant Deterioration of air quality as defined in the federal Clean Air Act, which allows a moderate amount

of air quality degradation. Air quality is generally good, Winds are typically southeasterly during the summer, and becoming southwesterly in the winter and early spring. Winds average 10 miles per hour in the fall and 16 miles per hour in the spring, with peak velocities reaching 50 miles per hour. These conditions rapidly disperse air pollutants in the region.

8. Recreation:

Recreation opportunities are very limited in this grazing allotment because over 90% of the allotment is private land. The Section and half Section of Public lands within this allotment are in the southeast corner and surrounded by private lands.

Off Highway Vehicle designation for public lands within this allotment are classified as "Limited" to existing roads and trails.

9. Caves and Karst:

A complete significant cave or karst inventory has not been completed for the public lands located in this grazing allotment. Presently, no known significant caves or karst features have been identified within this allotment. If at a later date, a significant cave or karst feature is located on public lands within this allotment, that cave or feature may be fenced to exclude livestock grazing and Off Highway Vehicle Use. A separate Environmental analysis would be prepared to construct this enclosure fence.

IV. Environmental Impacts

A. Impacts of the Proposed Action

1. Soils:

The permitted use as described in the proposed action is not anticipated to have any adverse impact to the current soil conditions. Some soil loss would continue to occur due to the windy conditions that prevail in this region during parts of the year. If vegetative cover remains stable soil loss may be minimized.

Changes in vegetative ground cover is often linked to the amount and timing of precipitation events. This assessment is based on the assumption that the area will receive at least the long term average in precipitation both in timing and amount.

2. Vegetation:

The continuance of the permitted use at the current use levels authorized by the expiring lease is not anticipated to have any adverse impact to the current vegetative conditions. The vegetation will continue to be grazed and trampled by domestic livestock as well as other herbivores such as well rabbits, rodents and

insects. Under the proposed action , it is not anticipated that a significant change in the vegetative composition or amount available for use will occur. The continuance of the present livestock management practices is not anticipated to alter the vegetative composition. Ecological condition and trend is expected to remain stable or improve over the long term at this permitted number.

3. Wildlife:

Under the proposed action, wildlife will continue to compete with domestic livestock for space, forage and browse. With proper livestock management and carrying capacities, there will be adequate cover and forage for most wildlife species; resulting in sustainable wildlife populations for those species that occupy or utilize the area. Maintenance and availability of existing waterings will continue to prove a dependable water source for wildlife, as well as livestock.

4. Threatened/Endangered Species:

Under the proposed action there would be no affect to Federal threatened and endangered species since there are no known T/E occurrences within this allotment.

Special Status Species:

Under the proposed action, there would be no impact to the sand dune lizard due to the absence of suitable habitat. In one small area of public land impacts would be minimal due to the dispersal of livestock.

Under the proposed action, there are no anticipated adverse impacts to the lesser prairie chicken or its habitat since the allotment is on the extreme edge of the lesser prairie chicken area and there are no known booming grounds.

5 Livestock Management:

Under the proposed action there would be no impacts to the current livestock management. The allotment would continue to be grazed in the same manner as it is currently. It would also be anticipated that this area would continue to have periodic deferment during other periods of the year.

6. Visual Resources:

The continued grazing of livestock would not affect the form or color of the landscape, or the primary aspect of the vegetation within the allotment.

7. Air Quality:

The impacts to air quality would not change from the current situation. A minor

amount of air quality degradation would continue.

8. Recreation:

Grazing would have little or no affect on the recreational opportunities. Legal access to this parcel of public land would still remain available. Recreation activities that could occur within this grazing allotment are limited however due to land patterns.

9. Significant Caves/Karst

No known significant caves or karst features are known to exist on the public lands located within this allotment. Grazing would not affect the karst resources.

B. Impacts of the No Livestock Grazing Alternative.

The No Livestock Grazing Alternative has been previously analyzed at the National level in the Rangeland Reform '94 EIS and in the Roswell RMP/EIS. An in depth analysis of this alternative will not be made in this document. General impacts under this alternative would include no new rangeland improvement and the removal of existing rangeland improvements unless a determination was made that they were beneficial to other uses. Since no grazing authorizations on public lands would be permitted, livestock operators grazing lands adjoining Federal lands would be responsible for preventing the unauthorized use of these Federal lands. The BLM would not fence these lands. Rangeland administrative emphasis would shift to issuing crossing permits to or from nonfederal land inholdings and resolving unauthorized use.

V. Cumulative Impacts

Cumulative impacts of the grazing and no grazing alternatives were considered in Chapter 4 of Rangeland Reform '94 Draft Environmental Impact Statement and in Chapter 4 of the Roswell Resource Area Proposed RMP/EIS. The no livestock grazing alternative was not selected in either document.

On the allotment specific level, there will be no cumulatively significant impacts from the proposed action /alternatives or from the no grazing alternative.

VI. Residual Impacts

The area has been grazed by livestock since the early part of the 1900's if not longer. Recent vegetative monitoring studies have shown that grazing , at the current permitted numbers of animals, is sustainable. If the mitigation measures are enacted, then there would be no residual impacts to the proposed action

VII. Mitigating Measures And/Or Permit/Lease Conditions

Vegetation monitoring studies will continue to be conducted and the permitted numbers of livestock will be adjusted if necessary. If new information surfaces that livestock grazing is negatively impacting other resources, action will be taken to mitigate the impacts.

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT/RATIONALE

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT: I have reviewed this environmental assessment including the explanation and resolution of any potentially significant environmental impacts. I have determined the **proposed action** will not have significant impacts on the human environment and that preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) is not required.

Rationale for Recommendations: The proposed action would not result in any undue or unnecessary environmental degradation. The **proposed action** will be in compliance with the Roswell Resource Management Plan and Record of Decision (October, 1997).

T. R. Kreager,
Assistant Field Office Manager - Resources

Date